



January 30, 1995

SILVER BOW CREEK STREAMSIDE TAILINGS SUPERFUND

~ ROUNDTABLE NOTES ~



By the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences
Helena, Montana

Calendar

Roundtable meeting
Monday, February 9,
1995, 7 p.m.

Fairmont Hot Springs
Resort.

Remedial Investigation
comment period:

Comments about the
remedial investigation
should be sent by March
13 to: Jim Ford, Montana
Department of Health
and Environmental
Sciences, P.O. Box
200901, Helena, MT
59620-0901.

For more information
about Superfund events
call Jane Heath or Jim
Ford with MDHES in
Helena:

1-800-246-8198 or
(406) 444-1420.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE JAN. 9 MEETING?

The January 9 Roundtable discussion centered around the site Remedial Investigation which is now in public review and comment until March 13. MDHES Site Project Manager Jim Ford summarized the remedial investigation and answered questions.

Jim told the group that a remedial investigation defines the contamination and where it ends up. Information from the remedial investigation feeds into the feasibility study which will be the topic of the February 6 meeting.

The sources of contamination as well as their fate are summarized in the fact sheet which is being mailed with this newsletter. Roundtable members were sent a draft of this fact sheet in January before the Roundtable meeting.

MDHES will hold a series of public meetings in Missoula, Fairmont and Butte to discuss the remedial investigation and the risk assessment. Those dates will be announced later.

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REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION Q AND A

Following are some of the questions and answers from the meeting concerning the Remedial Investigation:

Q. How does MDHES define the floodplain?

A. We defined the floodplain based not only on where we found tailings dispersed along Silver Bow Creek, but also with modeling studies by MDHES consultants. There have been 700-800 samples taken to help us define the extent of contamination and the floodplain.

Q. Did you test Silver Bow Creek water for mercury?

A. Most samples of Silver Bow Creek water did not show measurable concentrations of mercury.

Q. Isn't it true that the Streambank Tailings and Revegetation Study (STARS) technology does not amend saturated tailings?

A. Right. STARS did not address saturated tailings.

Q. How will streambed sediments be cleaned up, especially if the upstream contaminant sources are still not cleaned up?

A. Timing may make this aspect of Streamside Tailings cleanup difficult. There may be little reason to clean up the sediments until the upstream sources are removed or contained.

Q. Quite often Silver Bow Creek flows out of its banks near Rocker. What about controlling flow upstream to prevent this?

A. We will look at this more closely in the feasibility study.

ISSUES RAISED BY THE GROUP

The group asked questions or voiced concern about the following, some of which are related to the feasibility study which will be the subject of the February 6, 1995, Roundtable meeting at Fairmont.

Feasibility Study issues:

1. Will land use affect cleanup goals and standards?
2. What are the possible institutional controls?
3. How many institutional controls will be needed if tailings are totally removed? What if other technologies are used?
4. Interaction and sequence of cleanup of the various operable units of the site.

Issues to include in future meetings:

1. Cleanup costs, including earth-moving
2. Institutional controls
3. Operation and maintenance
4. Groundwater cleanup costs and standards
5. Sediment cleanup and flow stoppage - will these happen?
6. Flow/flood control on Silver Bow Creek and post-cleanup maintenance 10 or 15 years from now.
7. Specific numbers for cleanup goals such as parts per million, parts per billion and so on.

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